A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, October 21. 1707.

GReat are the Triumphs and Rejoycings of a Party of Men, *well enough known among us*, at a certain Piece of News spread about by their News-Writers, *long before it was true*, and impudently dress'd up with Forgeries and Additions by One of them, *since it was true*, *Viz.* That the *Swedish* Ambassador has made a Complaint against this Paper— But I'll soon put a Stop to their Rejoycing, in exhibiting a true State of the Affair, to the View of every impartial Reader, and I doubt not to the Satisfaction of the *Swedish* Envoy also.

What it is in particular, he has taken Offence at in the *Review*, I am not yet inform'd; It is true that I am of the Opinion, that several Transactions of the *Swedes* have not deserved such Applause, and such Approbation, as some People have given them in Print, *the shocking whose Extravagance led me into the debating those things*; I could not joyn in their Wishes, who desir'd, the King of *Sweden* should fall upon the Emperor, and by Consequence divert his Troops from their Concert with the Allies; I could not joyn with them, who had no Apprehensions of his lying so long in *Saxony*, nor could I say, that his wich-holding his Quota's from the Imperial Army was no Hindrance to the Confederates, nor can I yet think so— And in Justice I must think, Offence ought rather to be taken at those, who have openly publish'd the contrary Suggestions, that have said in their publick Papers, that the King of *Sweden* would stay in *Saxony* to force the Parties on either side to a Peace, and make the Allies accept such Conditions, as he thought reasonable, when at the same time

time his *Swediſh* Majeſty declar'd, he would not mediate in the Caſe—And as thoſe that impudently publiſh'd, that the King of *Sweden*'s Chief Miniſter was brib'd by the Duke of *Marlborough*—However 'tis true, the King of *Sweden*'s Envoy may be at Liberty to fall upon thoſe, who wiſhing his Maſter Succeſs in general, are yet plain in Particulars; and let them alone, who both hate as well as abuſe his Maſter; that is nothing to me.

But I'll ſtate the Caſe freely and plainly. *Firſt*, I make no Difficulty to ſay, if in my Obſervations, I have uſed too great a Plainneſs, if I have ſaid any thing unjuſt, untrue, indecent or offenſive in my Diſcourſe of the King of *Sweden*—I'll make any Reparation that the ſaid Envoy ſhall deſire, by acknowledging it in publick, asking Pardon for it, or the like—Becauſe I really meant no Affront to his *Swediſh* Majeſty; or if that will not ſatisfie, I'll ſubmit to any Iſſue of the Laws of *England*, whoſe Subject I am.

Nor ſhall my Abſence from *England* be any Excuſe for me, or be made a Ground to proſecute the Printer and Publiſher, who in ſuch Caſes are ſeldom asked any more than to name their Authors. I ſhall frankly acknowledge the Writing the Papers; not in order to defend any thing, in which I may have juſtly given Offence; but, *firſt of all*, if there be a Crime, *They are Innocent*, and no innocent Man ſhall ſtand in my Room, if I can clear them by appearing my ſelf, be the Danger what it will: And *ſecondly*, becauſe I reſolve never to fly from the Law, but to the Law.—*Dyer* in his News-Letter *ſaid true in this*, that I was in the Hands of Juſtice; *tho' it was falſe, as he ſcandalouſly meant it*—I am always in the Hand of Juſtice, becauſe I am always ready to ſubmit to the Laws, and I hope ſhall never do any thing to cauſe me to fly from them.

I cannot think, the Government will concern themſelves to call my ſpeaking of the publick Tranſactions of the World, and the Kings or Rulers thereof, a Crime here, or make Her Majeſty's Name the Plaintiff, in proſecuting an Offence againſt the King of *Sweden*; if I have offended the King of *Sweden*, the Law is open for his Majeſty to ſue me in his own Name, and I'll at any Time voluntarily appear to his Suit—As to the Publick, I have not wrote one Word reflecting either upon the QUEEN's Majeſty, Her Perſon or Government, Her Counſellors or Miniſters of State, nothing that can give them the leaſt Offence; and I cannot ſee, by what Law I am liable to the King of *Sweden*, more than to another Man——If I had ſaid, the King of *France* was a Baſtard, or a Whore-Maſter, tho' we were at Peace with him, his Majeſty might ſue me in an Action of Scandal, but I never knew any Law, by which he could have Reparation in the Name of the Government.

With all poſſible Reſpect therefore to his *Swediſh* Majeſty, I am ſure, the QUEEN will not be prevail'd with to any extrajudicial Ways with her Subjects; I am ſafe in it, Her Majeſty will not proceed againſt Me without Law; I have broke none of Her Majeſty's Laws, I have not ſinned againſt Her Perſon or Government, and with Submiſſion, I humbly think, I cannot be ſued in Her Majeſty's Name; and if the *Swediſh* Envoy does not think fit to accept the fair Offer propoſed above, I am ready to anſwer any Complaint he ſhall make in a legal Way, and frankly ſubmit, to what the Law ſhall determine; and I hope, his Excellency will take this for a reaſonable Anſwer.

MISCELLANEA.

BUT I am now to talk to another Sort of People, and I have divided this Matter, becauſe I ſee, I muſt be very cautious, that am ſo ſurrounded with Enemies; I am now not ſpeaking either of, or to the King of *Sweden*, or his Envoy, and I deſire to be underſtood ſo; and therefore proteſt againſt their taking Offence at it—But I am

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directing my Speech to those *honest Gentlemen-Murtherers*, who show so much particular Satisfaction, at the Hopes they have entertain'd of my Destruction, by the Prosecution upon this Paper, and with so much Gust insult me upon that Head; boast because I am remote, that I am fled from Justice, and make nothing of sending the QUEEN's Messengers after me into *Scotland*, and the like—— *Wagging the Head, and crying, Ah-ha. Psalm*, 35. 21. 25.

Impotent Malice, how does it fly in the Faces of its Contrivers? How does it fill them with Confusion, and *if it were possible to them*, with Blushes?—The Government need never be at the Charge of a Messenger to Me—I am so fully convinc'd of the Justice, Honour, and Mercy too, of Her Majesty's Government, that were I guilty of a much worse Crime, than this can be suggested, I would on the least Summons appear, and frankly either claim the first, or submit to and implore the last—And in the Case now depending, let Her Majesty's Commands be what they will to Me, I'll obey the first Call, and on a Post-Letter deliver my self up to Her Disposal.

And this shall at the same time convict those wretched Slanderers, who, taking Advantage of my being out of the Hearing to defend my self, have vilely suggested Crimes of another Nature, for which they would insinuate, I came into these Parts; the least Shadow of which I have often, and now again challenge them to prove.

And where am I, ye Sons of unwearied Slanders, That you should suggest I am fled from Justice? Am I conceal'd, am I out of Her Majesty's Dominions? *Now the Union has opened the Door*, the Nations protect no Criminals against one another—Let us see your Charge, let it be as publick as your Malice, and let us know what it is—I'll put in Bail, to answer all you can object, let it be what it will.

But this is the modern Course of the Age; when neither Hands, nor Law, nor Justice can revenge their Cause, then they fly to that worst of Murthers, Slander and Reproach.

But to return to the Case in hand; With what Pleasure am I insulted on this Complaint against the *Review*, and what Joy have the Gentlemen conceiv'd at the Consequence? How have I been sent to Count *Zober*, and bound Hand and Foot, been surrender'd to the *Swedes*? And, alas Gentlemen, your Prophecies of evil Tidings are not yet come to pass.

But I'll answer these Gentlemen's Buffoonry another Way. I thank GOD, I am a Subject in a Land, where I can suffer nothing but by Law; The QUEEN of *Britain* is none of those, who delivers up her Subjects to other Princes Correction; The Liberty of *English* Men is in a better Case; no Man can be punished here at the *Will of the Prince*, much less at the Will of a Foreign Prince.

In *England*, even the Soveraign never punishes but by Law, and a Jury of Equals must determine the Fact; if any King should demand the delivering up the meanest Subject, the QUEEN has, even a meaner, *if that can be*, than the Author of the *Review*, Her Majesty would immediately answer, as King *William* did to the Czar of *Muscovy*, *when he desir'd his Majesty to send him two or three Dozen of those fine Ladies, he saw at a Ball, Viz.* That it is not in Her Power to deliver any of Her Subjects up, or to punish them, but as the Law directs.

Nor does the King of *Sweden* expect such things here; 'tis bantering the Envoy of *Sweden*, not insulting Me, when such things are expected: He does not expect to find the Emperor in the QUEEN of *Great Britain*, or expect a Count *Zober* of Her Majesty? And it is no Arrogance in Me to say, I am a Subject of the Laws of *England*, and of no other Mortal Power in the World.

This is to be subject to GOD and the QUEEN; for Obedience to the Law is all the Subjection, *speaking of Human Affairs*, that either GOD or the QUEEN requires.

I have had Injury enough already, and Blessed be GOD, those Days are done; I know, I shall have Justice now; I am sure, I have broken no Law, and consequently know no Transgression.

'Tis a happy thing, Gentlemen, to live under the Laws of *England*— No Resentment of foreign Princes can affect us, no Threatnings terrifie us; an *English* Man is

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